



State Library of Massachusetts - Special Collections Department

Ms. Coll. 87

Martha's Vineyard Summer Institute Records, 1881-1905: Guide

COLLECTION SUMMARY

Creator: Martha's Vineyard Summer Institute (Cottage City, Mass.).

Call Number: Ms. Coll. 87

Extent: 1 box (1 linear foot)

Preferred Citation Style: *Folder Title, Box Number #.* Martha's Vineyard Summer Institute Records. State Library of Massachusetts Special Collections.

About This Finding Aid: Description based on DACS.

Processed by: Finding aid prepared by unknown processor, unknown date; updated by Abigail Cramer, July, 2012.

Abstract: These records document the work of the Martha's Vineyard Summer Institute, which offered classes for teachers in the arts and humanities and in teaching methods.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Martha's Vineyard Summer Institute existed from 1878 to 1907. The material in this collection dates from 1881 through 1905 and falls into three groups: legal documents, registers, and catalogs. The legal documents include incorporation papers, mortgage documents and contracts. There are three volumes entitled Registers of Faculty and Students covering the years 1884 through 1905. They contain lists of students, their permanent addresses, and their island addresses. The catalogs date from 1883 to 1902, with gaps, and include course lists, course descriptions and advertisements.

HISTORICAL NOTE

Colonel Homer B. Sprague, Headmaster of the Girls' High School, Boston, established the Martha's Vineyard Summer Institute at Cottage City in 1878. It was a summer school for teachers offering classes in the arts, academic fields, and teaching methods, as well as excursions and public lectures. There were approximately 80 students in the first year.

In 1881, the institute was incorporated. Land was secured and funds were raised to build Agassiz Hall as a permanent home. This building was completed for the 1882 session. The institute grew and flourished through the end of the 19th Century, but in the early 1900s, colleges and universities in Massachusetts began to offer summer courses for academic credit. The Martha's Vineyard Summer Institute could not compete with these institutions, and it closed in 1907.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Arrangement

The papers are arranged alphabetically by material type.

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research during the Special Collections Department's regular hours.

Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use

Copyright restrictions may apply. Requests for permission to publish material from this collection should be discussed with Special Collections staff.

Languages and Scripts

The materials are entirely in English.

Appraisal, Destruction, and Scheduling

An index card found with these materials indicates that at one time the State Library had account books from the Martha's Vineyard Summer Institute, but they were discarded in 1945 per order of Mr. Dooley, the State Librarian.

Related Materials

The following collections may also be of interest:

- The Martha's Vineyard Summer Institute: An Historical Sketch, William A. Mowry, 1905.
- Martha's Vineyard, Summer Resort: 1835-1935, Henry Beetle Hough, 1936.

Container List

Folder #	Folder Title	Date
1	Legal papers	ca. 1878-1882
2	Register	1884-1890
3	Register	1891-1996
4	Register	1897-1905
5	Catalog	1883-1886
6	Catalog	1891-1897
7	Catalog	1901-1902